

Planning and Development Department Update

DATE: August 19, 2011
TO: Mayor Setti D. Warren
FROM: Candace Havens, Director of Planning and Development 
RE: Friday Report
CC: Board of Aldermen
Robert Rooney, Chief Operating Officer

This weekly report is intended to keep you informed of current development proposals and other noteworthy planning and development activities as follows:

Monday 8/22/11	
Tuesday 8/23/11	• Newton Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force - Cancelled
Wednesday 8/24/11	
Thursday 8/25/11	• Newton Historical Commission, 7:30 p.m., Room 202

- **Newton Historical Commission:** The Commission will meet on **Thursday, August 25th** at 7:30 p.m. in Room 202. Items on the agenda include: **450 Winchester Street**, request to install rear bay window addition; **48 Country Club Road**, request to demolish house; **527 Washington Street** (Jackson Homestead), request to renovate interior of archives, remove window, install new doors, and install new walkway and handicap access ramp; **286 Waverly Avenue**, request to replace clapboards, sills, gutters, roof, infill basement windows, add storm windows, and restore exterior; **Administrative Discussion:** Review of Minutes.
Contact Brian Lever at 617.796.1129 or blever@newtonma.gov.
- **Next Step Living** is offering Newton residents and landlords a **FREE** turnkey approach to assessing your home from top to bottom to identify where energy efficiency improvements can be made. You will then receive a personalized list of recommendations to make energy savings changes in your home along with information about rebates and incentives to help you save on the recommended improvements. **Contact Next Step Living** to find out about eligibility requirements at **866.867.8729**.
- **SAVE THE DATE - FAR Informational Meeting:** The Planning and Development Department will hold an informational meeting on **Monday, September 19th** at 9:00 a.m., location to be announced, to review and answer questions about the recently adopted new floor area ratio (FAR) regulations for one- and two-family homes in residential zoning districts, which will **take effect October 15th, 2011**. Prior to the meeting we encourage you to visit our website www.newtonma.gov/planning/FAR.php where you'll find FAQ's, FAR calculator and more helpful information. The Inspectional Services and Planning Departments are asking those submitting applications for building permits and special permits to please use the worksheet on the website (also available at the ISD counter at City Hall) to calculate FAR under both current and new regulations. The data may help applicants decide whether they wish to wait until October 15th to submit an application and will also be used to monitor implementation of the new FAR regulations. **For more information please view the FAQ's from the web link above, email us at FAR@newtonma.gov or call 617.796.1120.**
- **Newton Preservation Awards Seeking Nominations:** This year marks the 4th year in which the Newton Historical Commission and Historic Newton have collaborated to operate the **Newton Preservation Awards**. If you know of a worthy project or person deserving recognition for historic preservation please complete a nomination form. The deadline for nominations is **Friday, September 16th**. Further information can be found on the Historic Newton website here:
<http://www.newtonma.gov/jackson/news/preservation-awards.asp>.

NEWTON COMMUNITY PRESERVATION PROGRAM

New 2011-12 Funding Deadline, Process & Community Outreach

Newton's Community Preservation Committee (CPC) is the committee formed as required by the state Community Preservation Act (CPA) to make recommendations to the Board of Aldermen for the use of Newton's Community Preservation Fund.

The CPC began requiring pre-proposals for funding requests in fall 2010. At its June 2011 meeting, the Committee decided that **the last possible date to submit a pre-proposal for the next funding round will be July 1, 2012** – a year from now.

First and foremost, the CPC wants to make sure project sponsors are aware of the new pre-proposal requirement and understand its advantages for them. The Committee accepts pre-proposals on a rolling basis and discusses them at any of its regular, monthly public meetings. Early pre-proposals allow sponsors to get constructive feedback from the CPC before investing the significant time required to prepare a full proposal. Also, sponsors of strongly time-sensitive projects may use their pre-proposal discussion with the Committee to ask if they may submit a full proposal “off-cycle,” before (or after) the next regular funding round.

The July 2012 deadline also allows for the expected completion between fall 2011 and spring 2012 of several City-wide studies and plans, including the City Archives Survey, City Historic Buildings Survey, and the next *Open Space Plan*. In combination with pre-proposals, these plans will help the CPC weigh the importance of current proposals against priorities for future funding. Clear future priorities are becoming more important than ever, given the steady if slow decline in the state matching funds Newton receives through the CPA, due to a greater number of participating cities and towns and the downturn in the real estate market.

Finally, 2011-2012 is the 10th anniversary of the CPA in Newton. Newton voters adopted the Act in November 2001. Newton's first CPC held a series of hearings in neighborhoods around the City before forwarding its first funding recommendation to the Board of Aldermen, which appropriated funds for Newton's first CPA project in December 2002. The CPC is planning a new series of neighborhood events in 2011-12 to recognize what the CPA has helped Newton accomplish over the past ten years, and to hear directly from residents their thoughts about future priorities and projects.

For more information or to submit a pre-proposal, please contact Alice E. Ingerson, Community Preservation Program Manager, www.newtonma.gov/cpa, phone: 617.796.1144 or email: aingerson@newtonma.gov.

WHAT'S ONLINE at www.newtonma.gov/cpa?

- Home page [Calendar](#) of mtg dates/times/locations & deadlines
 - [Committees & Meetings](#) full agendas & minutes, CPC members' bios
 - [Guidelines & Forms](#) allowable uses of funds, deadlines & instructions
 - [Proposals & Projects](#) full text of proposals & other documents
 - [Reports](#) current status of proposals & projects, available funds
 - **Got LEED?:** The City of Newton is interested in tracking LEED-Certified construction within the City. If you know of a building that has received or is intending to receive this distinction please let us know! **Contact Alexandra Ananth at 617.796.1121 or aananth@newtonma.gov.**
 - **Department's Weekly Report Going Green:** Over the years our Planning Department's Weekly Report (Friday Report) has continued to grow in circulation. While we're excited for people to read our information, we're hoping to move to a more green distribution. Besides saving paper and postage, it also allows you to receive the information more timely. For those of you who are not currently receiving it via email and who would like to change, please let us know by sending an email to Norine Silton at nsilton@newtonma.gov. Be sure to put "Going Green" in your subject line. Thank you!